MEMORANDUM

To: All Interested Persons, Organizations and Agencies

From: Leslie A. Meyers
Area Manager

Subject: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Proposed Recreational Trail Along the Central Arizona Project (CAP) Canal in the Pinal County, Arizona
(Proposal by 30 days from the date of this memorandum)

The Bureau of Reclamation has prepared a draft EA to analyze the potential environmental effects of a proposed recreational trail along the CAP canal within Pinal County. The proposed trail would begin at the Pinal-Pima County Line, and would extend north to Park Link Drive, a distance of approximately 10.5 miles. The trail will utilize 9.8 miles of an existing maintenance road on top of the berm that is alongside the CAP canal. A portion of the trail would branch off the existing maintenance road and would require the establishment of a trail. The project would also include the construction of a trailhead, and a 1.5-acre parking lot on the north side of Nona Road. The proposed trail would be designated for pedestrian, equestrian, and bicyclists use only. No motorized recreational vehicles would be allowed. The operation and maintenance of the trail and trailhead would be conducted in accordance with the Operations and Maintenance Agreement between Reclamation and the Central Arizona Water Conservation District, signed in June 2000, and the proposed Management and Development Plan between Pinal County and Reclamation.

The draft EA is available for public review and comment on the Phoenix Area Office web site at http://www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix/. A paper copy or CD of the draft EA can be obtained by calling Reclamation at 623-773-6251 or by emailing crock@usbr.gov.

Comments are due within 30 days of the date stamp on this memorandum. All comments should be submitted to Pinal County CAP Trail Project, Attn: WestLand Resources Inc., 4001 E Paradise Falls Drive, Tucson, Arizona 85712; faxed to (520) 206-9518; or via email at CAPEAPinal@westlandresources.com.

If you have questions, or would like to discuss the project, please contact Ms. Nichole Olsker, Environmental Protection Specialist, at 623-773-6258, or by email at nolsker@usbr.gov. By law, the names and addresses of those providing comments are available for public review. However, individuals may request that their name, and/or address be withheld from the record. These requests will be honored to the extent allowable by law. If you wish your name, and/or address withheld, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment letter. All comments from organizations or businesses will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Attachment